

and who will work in partnership with the U.S. Congress to improve our communities and to help lift all of our citizens up. Senator EDWARDS has always put people first. He understands the challenges that face our Nation in rural areas, suburban and urban America.

Second, he has a passion to make life better for all Americans. From education to energy, from factories to the farms, from health care to housing, Senator EDWARDS has a real desire to make improvements in these and so many other areas.

Third, JOHN has seen firsthand the challenges that citizens from all walks of life face, and he knows that we must work together in a bipartisan manner to move forward and to help our Nation. Senator EDWARDS has a vision for a better, stronger, and brighter America. With his focus on people, his passion for moving forward, and his commitment to partnership, he, indeed, will make an exceptional Vice President.

A STORY WE WILL NOT READ IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida talked about stories we will not read in the New York Times. Let me talk about another one.

Today, Mr. Speaker, 20, 25 women from the country of Iraq are here on the Hill talking with various Members of the House of Representatives, and their stories are so very poignant.

I just left a meeting with them, and I needed to share some of their words with my colleagues. To the question: What about the fact that America might have gone to war with Iraq under false pretenses? The first woman who raised her hand said, "What took you so long?" A woman who is a city leader in Karbala said 48 people in her family have been executed, and to this day they do not know where most of those family members are buried. She said to us, "Why would you even ask this question?" Another woman said, "Chemical warfare has been used on my family. So many have been lost. We don't know where they have gone. You should have been here in 1991. Liberation was late. We were left to be tortured."

On the subject of Fallujah, one woman stood up and very powerfully said, "Please finish the job." I could not agree more.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR UNFPA

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today we consider appropriating \$25 million that would reassure the world about

the U.S. commitment to saving women's lives.

The Bush administration has systematically undermined that commitment in its continued assault on UNFPA, the U.N. Population Fund. Our allies watch in horror as the world's enormous need for family planning goes unmet; and meanwhile our government allies itself with Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan in opposing voluntary international family planning programs.

Today, we can help to right that wrong by approving a measure that would direct \$25 million to UNFPA programs to prevent and treat obstetric fistula, a devastating condition that afflicts 2 million women worldwide. No other agency works in this vital area.

Let us send a message to the Bush administration that this Congress listens to the American people even if it does not. The world is waiting for us to act. UNFPA saves women's and children's lives.

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we have made great progress in the war on terror. Three years ago, in Afghanistan, al Qaeda was training and sending out thousands of terrorists. Pakistan had a significant al Qaeda presence. Saudi Arabia was a major area of support for al Qaeda. In Iraq, a sworn enemy of America was in power. Nuclear weapons technology was being sold to countries like Iran, North Korea, and Libya. For years, terrorists attacked the U.S. with relative impunity.

Three years later, because of the leadership of George Bush, in Afghanistan the terror camps are closed, Osama bin Laden is hiding in caves. Pakistani forces are rounding up terrorists on their border. Saudi Arabia is working closely with the U.S. to root out al Qaeda. In Iraq, our coalition removed a declared enemy of the United States. And we have ended one of the most dangerous sources of nuclear proliferation.

Today, because America has acted and we have led, the forces of terror and tyranny have suffered defeat after defeat, and America and the world are safer.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MICHIGAN NOTHING MORE THAN A PEP RALLY

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this week the President visited Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Too bad his visit was a pep rally. Instead, he owed the people of Northern Michigan some answers about his failed policies that have taken this Nation backwards in so many ways.

This is what the President should have talked about: how we would address the infinite list of problems and confusion with the sham Medicare prescription drug law; why we created new mandates for Northern Michigan schoolteachers and students through No Child Left Behind, but then failed to provide the needed financial resources to meet them; how he will restore the 397,000 jobs in Michigan we have lost, and more than 2 million nationwide. Many of these jobs have been shipped overseas.

The deficit: why the country has gone from record surpluses to a record \$521 billion deficit. Why did the President choose tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of putting the Nation's checkbook deep in the red?

Homeland security: Why has the President repeatedly cut needed funding for homeland security grants to local and State agencies. The Great Lakes: How will he restore the Great Lakes? His current proposal is a study of studies that will only keep us treading water.

Instead of real answers, all this President can give the American people is a pep rally. The American people deserve better.

PRAISING THE INDIAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN COUNCIL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the impressive gains made by the Indian American Republican Council since its founding 2 years ago. Under the outstanding leadership of Chairman Dr. Raghavendra Vijayanagar, there are 11 independent IARC state affiliates, eight Indian Americans are delegates at the Republican National Convention, and President George W. Bush has appointed 14 Indian Americans to his administration, more than any other President.

In particular, I commend the delegates attending the Republican National Convention: from Florida, Dr. Vijay, Dr. Zach Zachariah, Dr. George Thomas, and Dr. Akshay Desai; from Georgia, Mr. Narender Reddy; from Mississippi, Dr. Sampat Shivangi; from Maryland, Dr. Shambu Banik; and from Virginia, Shayam Menon, a prominent graduate of Washington and Lee University.

The IARC has become a nationally respected organization due to the energy, commitment, and dedication shown by its board of directors lead by Dr. Vijay. I look forward to working with the IARC to further the growing ties between Indian Americans and the Republican Party based on the shared values of promoting families and limited government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.